

**1039 Hammett #7 Allotment**  
**DETERMINATION DOCUMENT**

**SECTION 1**

     All Standards are met of making significant progress towards meeting and there is conformance with the guidelines. (No Determination is required, review is complete)

X One or more Standards is not being met or there is non-conformance with the guidelines. (An Authorized Officer's Determination is required, complete section 2)

**SECTION 2**

1. *Documentation of causal factors (other than livestock grazing)*

The Camas Creek watershed was not meeting Idaho Department of Environmental Quality water quality standards in downstream segments. Segments within the allotment were meeting standards.

2a. Is it more likely than not that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use are significant factors in failing to achieve the Standards or conform to the guidelines? (YES/NO)  
*Provide rationale.*

Yes. The current livestock grazing authorization is split among three different permits. Under one permit, three head of cattle are allowed from June 15 to September 15 for 9 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and an additional 55 head from July 1 to July 31 for 55 AUMs, annually. A second permit authorizes 117 cattle from July 1 to September 30 for 142 AUMs, annually. The third permit authorizes 27 head from July 1 to November 30 for 136 AUMs, annually.

The grazing period during the hot summer and fall results in livestock concentrating in cooler riparian areas. As a result, North Bourbon and Section 10 springs have received high utilization of riparian vegetation, trampling, and soil compaction which has reduced plant vigor and reproduction. Upland areas were also damaged from livestock trailing, resulting in gullies, pedestalled bunchgrasses and patches of bare ground or exotic grasses. In the Blackhawk Pasture, current livestock management is allowing for the recovery of upland vegetation in gullies and bare spots. In Sackrider 2 Pasture, the placement of salt blocks on a saddle on BLM land is drawing livestock up from meadows on state land and resulting in raw gullies on one side of the saddle and bare ground on the other.

2b. Is there conformance with Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management? (YES/NO) *if not list the guidelines that are not in conformance and provide evidence)*

No. Livestock grazing management practices are not in compliance with the following guidelines:

*Guideline 4 – Implement grazing management practices that provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient regrowth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions, including good plant vigor and adequate vegetative cover appropriate to site potential.*

The current permit does not incorporate periodic rest or deferment during the critical growth period to allow sufficient regrowth to maintain healthy and vigorous perennial plants in North Bourbon Spring.

*Guideline 5 - Maintain or promote grazing management practices that provide sufficient residual vegetation to improve, restore, or maintain healthy riparian-wetland functions and structure for energy dissipation, sediment capture, ground water recharge, streambank stability, and wildlife habitat appropriate to site potential.*

Guideline is not in conformance because high levels of utilization were observed at the developed spring.

*Guideline 6 - The development of springs, seeps, or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural and historical/archaeological/paleontological values associated with the water source.*

Guideline is not in conformance due to high levels of disturbance, and a non-functioning trough was observed at the developed spring.

*Guideline 8 – Apply grazing management practices that maintain or promote the interaction of the hydrologic cycle, the nutrient cycle, and energy flow that will support the appropriate types and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.*

Guideline is not in conformance because heavy livestock concentrations resulted in a loss of native plants and soil, forming gullies in three pastures.

/s/ **Tate Fischer**

May 27, 2014

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**Authorized Officer: Tate Fischer**  
**Four Rivers Field Manager**

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**Date**

## SUMMARY OF EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION

Check Box 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (Do not add data or explanatory remarks here.)	STANDARDS							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1) Meeting the Standard			X	X	N/A	N/A	X	
2) Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>								
3) Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices <b>are not</b> significant factors								
4) Not meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices <b>are</b> a significant factor	X	X						X
5) Not meeting the Standard, cause not determined								
Guidelines for Livestock Grazing								
6) Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management								No
7) If no, list the guidelines not in conformance: 4, 5, 6, and 8								